

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

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INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, ABUN, UN, UR, US

SUBJ: UN PROGRAM BUDGET

1. SUMMARY: AT MEETING IN SOVIET MISSION FEBRUARY 14, WE WERE PRESENTED WITH A QTE NON-PAPER UNQTE EXPRESSING SOVIET CONCERN OVER INCREASED GROWTH IN UN EXPENDITURES AND REQUESTED TO COOPERATE MORE CLOSELY WITH THEM ON UN FINANCIAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND RELATED MATTERS. SOVIETS MADE SIMILAR APPROACH TO BRITISH. MISSION, WHILE SKEPTICAL OF CLOSER COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIETS, SUGGESTS THAT WE CAUTIOUSLY EXPLORE THIS AVENUE IN CONCERT WITH UK, FRENCH, FRG, AND JAPANESE DELEGATIONS. END SUMMARY

2. AT INVITATION OF SOVIETS, AMBASSADOR SHERER AND MISOFF STOTTLEMYER MET WITH SOVIET DEPUTY PERM REP FOKIN AND COUNSELOR GRODSKY AT SMUN MORNING OF FEBRUARY 14. OVER TEA AND COOKIES, FOKIN OPENED DISCUSSION BY STATING THAT ON INSTRUCTIONS OF AMBASSADOR TROYANOVSKY AND MOSCOW, HE WANTED TO BRING TO OUR ATTENTION A MATTER OF SERIOUS CONCERN TO HIS GOVERNMENT. IN ORDER NOT TO BE MISUNDERSTOOD, FOKIN ADDED HE WANTED TO READ A QTE NON-PAPER UNQTE

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CONCERNING THE UNACCEPTABILITY TO HIS GOVERNMENT OF CONTINUED GROWTH IN THE UN PROGRAM BUDGET AND HOW THIS MIGHT BE CHECKED THROUGH JOINT SOVIET/US COOPERATION. FOKIN PREFACED HIS REMARKS WITH LAUDATORY COMMENTS ABOUT SOVIET/US COOPERATION DURING 31ST UNGA ON QUESTION OF UN SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS. TEXT OF SOVIET QTE NON-PAPER UNQTE IS QUOTED AS PARAGRAPH 3 BELOW; PAPER WAS SENT TO USUN FOLLOWING

DAY BY SMUN.

3. QTE THE UNDUELY HIGH RATE OF GROWTH OF THE UNITED NATIONS BUDGET IN RECENT YEARS GIVES RISE TO AN EXTREMELY SERIOUS CONCERN ON THE PART AT A NUMBER OF THE UN MEMBER-STATES, PRIMARILY MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO THE UN BUDGET. THIS IS EVIDENCE, IN PARTICULAR, BY THE SPEECH, MADE AT THE CLOSING MEETING AT THE THIRTY FIRST SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NETHERLANDS,, WHO SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE QTE NINE UNQTE, THE USA AND THE USSR.

QTE NOW THE UN SECRETARIAT HAS ENTERED A DECISIVE PHASE IN ITS WORK ON THE DRAFTING AT THE UN BUDGET FOR 1978-1979 TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE THIRTY SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY. WE FEEL THAT A COORDINATED ACTION BY MAIN CONTRIBUTORS TO THE UN BUDGET AND, PERHAPS, SOME JOINT EFFORTS BY OUR DELEGATIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE REDUCTION OF THE UN BUDGET GROWTH RATES AND WOULD IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS AND ECONOMY IN THE UN ACTIVITIES.

QTE FOR INSTANCE, ATTENTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT COULD JOINTLY BE DRAWN TO THE FACT THAT THE DRAFT BUDGET OF THE UNITED NATIONS SHOULD BE PREPARED WITH DUE REGARD TO THE REQUIREMENTS AS CONTAINED IN THE DECISIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AS WELL AS TO THE NEED TO STABILIZE THE UNITED NATIONS BUDGET.

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QTE IN THIS CONNECTION, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT SHOULD REFRAIN FROM INCLUDING INTO THE UNITED NATIONS DRAFT BUDGET EXPENDITURES FOR EXPANSION OF THE PROGRAMME OF THE UNITED NATIONS ACTIVITIES, AS IT CONTRADICTS THE UNITED NATIONS FINANCIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS AND THE OPINION OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTION, WHICH FELT THAT QTE AN INCREASE IN THE PROGRAMMES SHOULD NORMALLY BE UNDERTAKEN FOLLOWING THE ACTION BY LEGISLATIVE BODIES RATHER THAN PRECEDING SUCH ACTION UNQTE.

QTE IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO ENSURE THAT THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT, IN PREPARATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS DRAFT BUDGET, SHOULD DUELY MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION NO. 31/93 WHICH INVITED THE SECRETARY-GENERAL QTE TO DRAW TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COMPETENT INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES ACTIVITIES THAT ARE OBSOLETE, OF MARGINAL USEFULNESS OR INEFFECTIVE UNQTE, AND SHOULD INCLUDE INTO THE UNITED NATIONS DRAFT BUDGET FULL INFORMATION

AND RELEVANT PROPOSALS ON THIS SUBJECT.

QTE IT IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO ENSURE, THAT THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT INCLUDE IN THE UN DRAFT BUDGET ON THE BASIS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 3534 (XXX) FULL INFORMATION CONCERNING MANPOWER AND RESOURCES WHICH ARE SAVED DUE TO PROGRAMME COMPLETION OR REDUCTION AND WHICH CAN BE DIVERTED TO FINANCE NEW UNITED NATIONS ACTIVITIES.

QTE WE CONSIDER IT POSSIBLE TO DEMAND THAT THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT DOES NOT INCLUDE IN THE UNITED NATIONS BUDGET EXPENDITURES FOR SERVICES, PROVIDED BY THE UNITED NATIONS TO AGENCIES WITHIN THE UN SYSTEM, INCLUDING VOLUNTARY FUNDS. ALL THESE EXPENDITURES SHOULD BE FULLY COMPENSATED BY THESE AGENCIES.

QTE THESE ARE ONLY SOME OF THE ISSUES ON WHICH, IN OUR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OPINION, JOINT EFFORTS COULD BE MADE BY THE MAIN CONTRIBUTORS TO THE UNITED NATIONS BUDGET AT THIS PHASE OF THE PREPARATIONS OF THE UN BUDGET.

QTE WE ARE WILLING TO LISTEN TO OTHER POSSIBLE CONSIDERATIONS WITH REGARD TO CONCRETE STEPS IN THIS DIRECTION.

QTE WE PROCEED FROM THE PREMISE THAT THE NATURE OF OUR JOINT EFFORTS TO CURB THE INCREASE OF THE UN BUDGET COULD BE FURTHER DISCUSSED AT LATER PHASES OF THE PREPARATIONS OF THE UN BUDGET FOR 1978-1979 (WHEN IT IS DISCUSSED IN THE ACABQ AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY). UNQTE

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4. FOLLOWING READING OF PAPER, FOKIN ASKED THAT WE REPORT SUBSTANCE OF SOVIET APPROACH TO US TO WASHINGTON AND REQUESTED THAT WE MEET AGAIN IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO PRESENT THE SOVIETS WITH OUR VIEWS ON SOVIET/AMERICAN COOPERATION IN FIFTH COMMITTEE MATTERS IN THE FUTURE. REPLYING TO REQUEST OF FOKIN FOR COMMENTS, STOTTLEMYER MADE POINT THAT WE SHARED CONCERN OF SOVIETS FOR ENSURING EFFECTIVE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN THE UN AND FINANCIAL RESTRAINT. HOWEVER, FOR THIS TO TAKE PLACE THERE MUST BE PRIOR UNDERSTANDING THAT SUCH COOPERATION IS A TWO-WAY STREET WHICH REQUIRES SELF-DENIAL ON THE PART OF BOTH PARTIES AT TIMES, IN PARTICULAR A WILLINGNESS TO FOREGO SHORT TERM POLITICAL GAIN WHEN THIS APPEARS POSSIBLE. TO MAKE POINT CLEAR, STOTTLEMYER RECOUNTED DIFFICULTY WITH SOVIET DELEGATION IN UNGA FIFTH COMMITTEE AT 30TH SESSION ON EXPANSION IN THE PROGRAM BUDGET FOR THE DISARMAMENT DIVISION AND AT THE 31ST UNGA SOVIET SUPPORT OF THE REQUEST BY GHANA CONTRARY TO RESOLUTION 2609 (XXIV) FOR UN TO PICK UP ONE-HALF OF THE ADDITIONAL COST FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION PLANNED TO BE HELD IN ACCRA. CONTINUING, STOTTLEMYER STATED THAT FOR FINANCIAL RESTRAINT TO BE EFFECTIVE, OUR GOVERNMENTS WOULD HAVE TO TAKE THIS FACTOR FULLY INTO ACCOUNT IN VARIOUS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UN COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS, ETC. WHEN THESE BODIES TOOK DECISIONS WHICH REQUIRED ADDITIONAL RESOURCES. FINALLY, POINT WAS MADE THAT MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS WOULD HAVE TO BE WILLING AND FIND THE MEANS TO BRING INFLUENCE TO BEAR ON THE SECRETARY-GENERAL SO THAT THEIR VIEWS WILL BE HEEDDED ALONG WITH THOSE OF THE MAJORITY. AT THE SAME TIME THEY MUST BE POLITICALLY SENSITIVE TO WHAT REALISTICALLY CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED.

5. GRODSKY RESPONDED THAT THE SOVIETS WERE CONCERNED THAT DECISIONS BY BOTH THE 30TH AND 31ST GAS REGARDING THE TERMINATION OF COMPLETED AND/OR MARGINAL PROGRAMS BE FULLY IMPLEMENTED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THAT QTE AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE UNQTE NO FUNDS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE UN REGULAR BUDGET FOR SUPPORT OF SO-CALLED EXTRA BUDGETARY ACTIVITIES. ON FORMER POINT, WE SAID WE SHARED SOVIET CONCERN AND HOPED OUR TWO DELEGATIONS COULD WORK TOGETHER TO ENSURE THAT

THESE GA DECISIONS WERE FULLY IMPLEMENTED. WE DID NOT COMMENT ON THE LATTER POINT NOR DID WE COMMENT ON PARTICULARS IN SOVIET PAPER, RATHER, WE SAID THAT WE PREFERRED TO STUDY PAPER CAREFULLY AND REPORT TO WASHINGTON BEFORE RESPONDING TO SOVIET REQUEST FOR GREATER SOVIET/US COOPERATION IN THE FUTURE IN THIS AREA OF UN ACTIVITY.

6. ON FEBRUARY 15, BRITISH MET AT SOVIET MISSION WITH SCENARIO SIMILAR TO THAT OF SOVIET/US MEETING PREVIOUS DAY. ACCORDING TO BRITISH, THEY LISTENED TO WHAT THE SOVIETS HAD TO SAY, AGREED TO REPORT TO LONDON, AND RESPOND TO SOVIET REQUEST FOR INCREASED COOPERATION AT EARLY DATE. UNLIKE US, BRITISH INFORMED SOVIETS THAT THEY HAD MADE A DEMARCHE TO WALDHEIM REGARDING 1978-79 UN PROGRAM BUDGET LAST FALL; THEY ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT COOPERATION IN FUTURE BETWEEN THEIR TWO DELEGATIONS, IF APPROPRIATE, WOULD HAVE TO BE DONE ON A SELECTIVE BASIS UNDER WHICH SPECIFIC ISSUES WOULD BE CONSIDERED. BOTH UKUN AND USUN MISOFFS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXCHANGED NOTES FULLY ON THEIR RESPECTIVE VISITS WITH THE SOVIETS. BOTH UK AND USUN MISOFFS AGREED TO SHARE WITH OUR FRG, FRENCH AND JAPANESE COLLEAGUES -- MEETING AS THE QTE BIG FIVE UNQTE -- SUBSTANCE OF OUR RESPECTIVE TALKS WITH THE SOVIETS AT PREVIOUSLY ARRANGED LUNCHEON FEBRUARY 16.

7. FOR REASONS STATED ON A NUMBER OF PREVIOUS OCCASIONS MISSION REMAINS SKEPTICAL ABOUT INCREASES SOVIET/US COOPERATION ON UN FINANCIAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND RELATED MATTERS. OUR PRIMARY CONCERN REMAINS THAT WE NOT BECOME IDENTIFIED WITH SOVIET NEGATIVISM ON FINANCIAL QUESTIONS WHICH IS EXTREMELY UNPALATABLE IN THE UN COMMUNITY GENERALLY. IF WE BECOME BLURRED WITH THE SOVIETS, WE WILL RISK DESTROYING OUR CREDIBILITY AS A VOICE OF REASONED RESTRAINT; IN PARTICULAR, OUR INFLUENCE WITH LDC MODERATES WILL BE JEOPARDIZED. WE ALSO ARE SKEPTICAL THAT THE SOVIETS WILL ALWAYS MAKE GOOD ON ANY PLEDGE TO COOPERATE. WHENEVER THEY JUDGE THAT THERE IS OVERRIDING POLITICAL GAIN IN PARTING COMPANY THEY WILL NOT HESITATE TO DO SO.

8. ON THE OTHER HAND WE WOULD NOT WISH THE SOVIETS TO THINK WE HAVE NO INTEREST IN WORKING WITH THEM IN THIS AREA SINCE WE DO SHARE SOME CONCERNS ABOUT UN FINANCING AND ADMINISTRATION AND THERE MAY BE OCCASIONS SUCH AS THE SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS ISSUE WHERE AN ALREADY ESTABLISHED PATTERN OF COOPERATION WILL BE HELPFUL. WE SUGGEST THAT WE WORK IN CONCERT WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE QTE BIG FIVE UNQTE IN WORKING OUT TACTICS FOR EXPLORING HOW FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS MIGHT BE PURSUED.

9. REQUEST DEPARTMENT VIEWS AND COMMENTS SO THAT WE MAY
REPLY TO SOVIET REQUEST.
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Message Attributes

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